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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

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November 30, 1999

BY FACSIMILE

The Honorable Carol M. Browner
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Browner:

It has been reported to Subcommittee staff that, under the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) pending reorganization plan, Office of Policy (OP) staff currently administering Climate Change Technology Initiative (CCTI) programs are to be reassigned to the Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) and the Office of International Activities (OIA). I have concerns about the policy implications of such a reorganization.

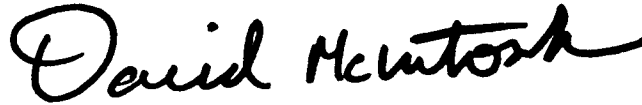
If my objective were to lay the organizational foundation for a mandatory greenhouse gas emissions control regime, I would shift some CCTI program staff from OP into OAR, which is one of EPA's regulatory and enforcement arms. Similarly, if my objective were to sell the Kyoto Protocol to developing countries, I would shift some CCTI program staff from OP into OIA, which engages in diplomatic and foreign assistance activities. In short, if my objective were to build an institutional capacity in preparation for implementing the Kyoto Protocol, I would reassign CCTI program staff in exactly the ways EPA reportedly plans to reassign them.

Pursuant to the Constitution and Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, I request that EPA provide specific answers to the following questions. First, is EPA planning to reassign all or most of its CCTI-related OP staff to OAR and OIA? If so, how many OP staff will be reassigned each to OAR and OIA, when will the reassignments go into effect, and how will the reassignments affect OAR's and OIA's budgets? Second, what are the reasons for the reassignments? What policy objective(s) does EPA hope to accomplish or advance by reassigning CCTI program staff from OP to OAR and OIA?

Please provide the information requested in this letter by December 20, 1999 to the Subcommittee majority and minority staffs in rooms B-377 and B-350A Rayburn House Office Building, respectively. If you have any questions about this request, please contact Subcommittee Staff Director Marlo Lewis at 225-1962.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David McIntosh". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being more prominent and the last name "McIntosh" following in a similar style.

David M. McIntosh

Chairman

Subcommittee on National Economic Growth,
Natural Resources and Regulatory Affairs

cc: The Honorable Dan Burton
The Honorable Dennis Kucinich